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OPENING PRAYERS

IMPEACHMENT TRIAL OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 7 – FEBRUARY 12, 1999

DR. LLOYD JOHN OGILVIE

SENATE CHAPLAIN
UNITED STATES SENATE
WASHINGTON, DC

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

FEBRUARY 11, 1999

DEAR SENATOR:

We are pleased to provide copies of the prayers offered by the Senate Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd J. Ogilvie, during the impeachment trial of President William Jefferson Clinton.

We hope that the words of Dr. Ogilvie will continue to provide you with comfort and inspiration in the days ahead.

Sincerely,

Tom Daschle
Democratic Leader

Trent Lott
Majority Leader

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PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

"Is there any word from the Lord?" We humbly fall on the knees of our hearts as this ancient, urgent biblical question reverberates in our minds and echoes in this historic Chamber. When there is nowhere else to turn, we return to You, dear God. We hear Your answer sounding in our souls: "Let him who glories glory in this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the Lord, exercising loving kindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth."—Jeremiah 9:24. Your righteous judgment is irreducible and your grace irrefutable.

Holy God, as this sacred Chamber becomes a court and these Senators become jurors, be omnipresent in the pressures of these impeachment proceedings. Grant the Senators the ability to exercise clear judgment without judgmentalism. Today, unite the Senate in nonpartisan commitment to the procedures that will most effectively resolve the grave matters before them and our Nation. Bind the Senators together as fellow patriots seeking Your best for our beloved land.

Oh, dear Father, author of this Republic and divine authority from whom the Senators' powers flow, we trust You. With one mind and heart, we rededicate ourselves to You and thank You for Your guidance each step of the way through these troubled times. You are our Lord and Savior. *Amen*

January 7, 1999

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain, the Reverend Paul E. Lavin, pastor of Saint Joseph's Catholic Church, Washington, DC, offered the following prayer:

In the Book of Wisdom, Solomon prays:

God of my fathers, Lord of mercy
You who have made all things by Your word
and in Your wisdom have established man
to rule the creatures produced by You
to govern the world in holiness and justice
and to render judgment in integrity of heart;
Give me wisdom, the attendant at Your throne
and reject me not from among Your children.—
Wisdom 9:1–5.

Let us pray.

We stand before You, Almighty God, conscious of our own sinfulness, but aware that we gather in Your name.

Come to us, remain with us and enlighten our hearts.

Give us light and strength to know Your will to make it our own, and to live it in our lives.

Guide us by Your wisdom, support us by Your power.

You desire justice for all: Enable us to uphold the rights of others; do not allow us to be misled by ignorance or corrupted by fear or favor.

May all our decisions be pleasing to You, and to You be glory for ever and ever. *Amen*

January 8, 1999

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, whose providential care has never varied all through our Nation's history, we ask You for a special measure of wisdom for the women and men of this Senate as they act as jurors in this impeachment trial. You have been our Nation's refuge and strength in triumphs and troubles, prosperity and problems. Now, dear Father, help us through this difficult time. As You guided the Senators to unity in matters of procedure, continue to make them one in their search for the truth and in their expression of justice. Keep them focused in a spirit of nonpartisan patriotism today and in the crucial days to come. Bless the distinguished Chief Justice as he presides over this trial. We commit to You all that is said and done and ultimately decided. In Your holy Name. *Amen*

January 14, 1999

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Holy God, with awe and wonder we accept our responsibilities and our accountability to You. You are Sovereign of this land. When we commit our complexities to You, really seek Your guidance, You direct us. Make us attentive listeners, dedicated to the search for absolute truth. In the cacophony of voices, help us to hear Your voice.

Dear Father, Your faithfulness never fails. You are consistent, reliable, and true. You except nothing less from us for Your glory and for the good of America. To that end, fill this Chamber with Your presence and the minds of the Senators with Your gift of discernment. You are our Lord and Savior. *Amen*

January 15, 1999

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Gracious God, You have given us magnificent promises to claim for today. You have told us that if we wait on You, we will renew our strength. You have assured us that You will use our minds to think clearly in response to Your inspiration. Courage is offered, patience provided, and wisdom engendered.

In this quiet moment, grant the Senators Your power to persevere, Your peace for equipoise, Your judgment for the evaluation of the facts presented, and Your will to guide their decisions. As You have blessed us with this day, we praise You that You will show the way. Through our Lord and Savior. *Amen*

January 16, 1999

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Gracious God, our Rock of Ages in the sifting sands of our times, You are our stability and strength. You have placed a homing spirit in our hearts, making us restless to return to You. And now in communion with You, we receive what we need—energizing power for this new day, enthusiasm for the demanding schedule of this long day, extraordinary intellectual resiliency for the challenges of this crucial day.

Lord, bless the Senators with an assuring awareness of Your presence in the varied responsibilities they will assume today: the morning business, the party caucuses, the resumption of the impeachment trial, the State of the Union Address by the President. May their consistently repeated prayer in each changing circumstance, conversation, or conflict be: "Lord, use me. Speak through me. Accomplish Your will in my life and leadership." And so we commit this day to live intentionally in the inspiration of Your Spirit. *Amen*

January 19, 1999

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Gracious Father, our hearts are filled with praise. You have chosen to be our God and chosen each of us to know You. The most important election of life is Your divine election of each of us to know You and serve You. Thank You that we live in a land in which we have the freedom to enjoy living out this awesome calling. We are grateful for our heritage as "one Nation under God." We praise You for Your love that embraces us and gives us security, Your joy that uplifts us and gives us resiliency, Your peace that floods our hearts and gives us serenity, Your Spirit that fills us and gives us strength and endurance.

Help us to realize that it is by Your permission that we breathe our next breath and by Your grace that we are privileged to use all the gifts of intellect and judgment that You provide. Give the Senators a perfect blend of humility and hope so that they will know that You have given them all that they have and are and have chosen to bless them this day. May their service be an expression of their gratitude. Through our Lord and Savior. *Amen*

January 20, 1999

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Dear God, You know what we need before we ask You but, in the asking, our minds and hearts are prepared to receive Your answer. In this impeachment trial, we have learned again that really listening over a prolonged period of time is hard work. Often it is difficult to hear what is being said because of differing convictions. Dissonance causes discordant static. Sometimes our preconceptions about what we think will be said keep us from hearing what actually is said. Thank You for the commitment of the men and women of this Senate to serve You and our Nation by accepting the demanding responsibility of listening for and evaluating truth. Grant them renewed energy, sensitive audio nerves, and discerning minds. For Your glory and the good of America. *Amen*

January 21, 1999

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us. We need Your strength. The wells of our own resources run dry. We need Your strength to fill up our diminished reserves—silent strength that flows into us with artesian resourcefulness, quietly filling us with renewed power. You alone can provide strength to think clearly and to decide decisively.

Bless the Senators today as they trust You as Lord in the inner tribunal of their own hearts. You are Sovereign of this land, but You are also Sovereign of the inner person inside each Senator. May these hours of questions bring exposure of truth and resolution of uncertainties. O God of righteousness and grace, guide this Senate at this decisive hour. You are our Lord and Savior. *Amen*

January 22, 1999

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, You have taught us to seek and maintain unity. You've also taught us that this unity is so precious that we should be willing to sacrifice anything in order to maintain it—except the truth. Help us to affirm the great undeniable truths that twine the bond of oneness: We are one Nation under Your sovereignty; our patriotism binds us together inseparably; our commitment to the Constitution is unswerving. In these bonds that cannot be broken, this Senate has been able to deal with the arguments, issues, and opinions of this impeachment trial. Continue to inspire the Senators with civility as they work through answers to the questions raised today.

Refresh and rejuvenate those who may be weary or burdened. Dear God, preserve the unity of this Senate for its future leadership of our beloved Nation. In Your holy Name. *Amen*

January 23, 1999

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Dear God, we are moved by Your accessibility to us and our accountability to You. We hear Your promise sounding in our souls, "Be not afraid, I am with you." We place our trust in Your problem-solving power, Your conflict-resolving presence, and Your anxiety-dissolving peace. So we report in to You for duty. What You desire, You inspire. What You guide, You provide.

This is Your Nation; we are here to serve You. Just as Daniel Webster said that the greatest conviction of his life was that he was accountable to You, we press on with a heightened awareness that You are the unseen Lord of this Chamber, the silent Listener to every word that is spoken, and the Judge of our deliberations and decisions.

Bless the Senators with the assurance that Your work, done with total trust in You and respect for each other, will not lack Your resources. Surpass any impasse with divinely inspired solutions. You are our Lord and Savior. *Amen*

January 25, 1999

Prayer

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Gracious God, You not only guide our steps, You order our stops for quiet times of prayer. We hear Your words spoken through the psalmist. "Be still and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth"—Psalm 46:10. Help us absorb the true meaning of these words translating the original Hebrew. You call us to let up, leave off, let go, and truly know that You are God. You are in control. We cannot be still inside until we reaffirm that You are in control of us, this Nation, and this Senate. We exalt You El Shaddai, all-sufficient one; Adonai, our Lord; Jehovahraah, our Shepherd who guides; Jehovah-rapha, who heals our bodies and our relationships; Jehovahshammah, God who is here. Strengthen the Senators as they seek to exalt You, as these pages of American history are written during this trial. You bless the Nation that exalts You! Through Him who taught us to seek first Your kingdom and Your righteousness. *Amen*

January 26, 1999

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Dear God, leadership has its defining days in which crucial decisions must be made. You know that this is an important one of those days. In a few moments, votes must be cast. Now in the quiet, the Senators wait to be counted. It is a lonely time. Beyond party loyalties, those on both sides of the aisle long to do what ultimately is best for our Nation. Debate has led to firm convictions. Give the Senators the courage of these convictions and the assurance that, if they are true to whatever they now believe is best, You will bless them with peace. We intercede for them and the heavy responsibility they must carry. Imbue them with Your calming Spirit and strengthen them with Your gift of faith to trust You to maintain unity once the votes are tallied. We commit the results to You. Our times are in Your hands. Through our Lord and Savior. *Amen*

January 27, 1999

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, thank You for the gift of vibrant confidence based on vital convictions. We are confident in Your unlimited power. Therefore, at no time are we helpless or hapless. Our confidence is rooted in Your Commandments. Therefore, we are strengthened by Your absolutes that give us enduring values. Our courage is based on the assurance of Your ever-present, guiding Spirit. Therefore, we will not fear. Our hope is rooted in trust in Your reliability. Therefore, we will not be anxious. Your interventions in trying times in the past have made us hopeful thinkers for the future. Therefore, we trust You.

You have called us to glorify You in the work here in this Senate. Therefore, we give You our best for this day's responsibilities. You have guided our beloved Nation through difficult periods of discord and division in the past. Therefore, we ask for Your help in the present deliberations of the impeachment trial. Thank You for the courage that flows from our unshakable confidence in You. Through our Lord and Savior. *Amen*

January 28, 1999

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Gracious God, these days here in the Senate are filled with crucial issues, differences on solutions, and eventually a vital vote in the impeachment trial. We begin this day's session with the question You asked King Solomon, "Ask! What shall I give You?" We empathize with Solomon's response. He asked for an "understanding heart." We are moved by the more precise translation of the Hebrew words for "understanding heart," meaning "a hearing heart."

Solomon wanted to hear a word from You, Lord, for the perplexities he faced. He longed for the gift of wisdom so he could have answers and direction for his people. We are moved by Your response, "See, I have given you a wise and listening heart."

I pray for nothing less as Your answer for the women and men of this Senate. Help them to listen to Your guidance and grant them wisdom for their decisions. All through our history as a Nation, You have made good men and women great when they humbled themselves, confessed their need for Your wisdom, and listened intently to You. Speak Lord; we need to hear Your voice. We are listening. *Amen*

February 4, 1999

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Mr. Chief Justice, it is with profound sadness that we express our grief over the loss of our legislative clerk, R. Scott Bates, who, along with his wife, Ricki Ellison Bates, last evening was struck by a car while walking across Lee Highway in Arlington. Mrs. Bates remains in serious condition and needs our prayers throughout this day.

Let us pray.

O eternal God, our heavenly Father, who loves us with an everlasting love and transforms the darkness of the Valley of the Shadow of Death into bright hope, the Senate family of Members and staff call on You for strength, comfort, and courage. Tragic death has taken from us a beloved friend, an admired fellow worker, a faithful Senate employee for over 30 years.

In the quietness we can hear his voice call the roll, read proposed legislation and, most of all, express his caring friendship to us all.

Thank You for Scott's commitment to excellence and his dedication to the work of the Senate regardless of long sessions or arduous debate. We intercede now for his wife, for her complete healing and recovery. Hold his wonderful children in Your loving arms: Lisa, Lori, and Paul. We remember with gratitude Lisa and Lori's outstanding service as pages in the Senate. Help them and their brother, Paul, to know that their dad, whom they loved so deeply, is with You. He trusted You in this life and now lives

(Continued on Back)

with You forever. Traumatic as was his physical death, it was but a transition in his eternal life.

Now, Lord, bless the Senate as it turns to the work of this day, cognizant of the shortness of time and the length of eternity for all of us. In the sure hope of the resurrection and eternal life. *Amen*

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, guide the Senators today as they move closer to the completion of this impeachment trial and confront some of the most difficult decisions of their lives. Give them physical strength and mental fortitude for this day. In anticipation of Your burden-lifting blessing, we place our trust in You.

We renew our prayers for peace in the Middle East. Thank You for the life and leadership of King Hussein of Jordan, that persistent peacemaker and emissary of light in the often dim negotiations for just peace. Now at this time of his untimely death, we pray for the people of Jordan and for his son, King Abdullah, as he assumes the immense challenges of leadership. In Your holy Name. *Amen*

February 8, 1999

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, we renew our trust in You when we realize how much You have entrusted to us. We are stunned by the psalmist's reminder that You have crowned us with glory and honor and given us responsibility over the work of Your hands. We renew our dependence on You as we assume this breathtaking call to courageous leadership.

Help the Senators to claim Your promised glory and honor. Imbue them with Your own attributes and strengthen their desire to do what is right and just. As they humbly cast before You any crowns of position or pride, crown them with Your presence and power. In Your holy Name. *Amen*

February 9, 1999

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Sovereign God, thank You for the good men and women of this Senate. Today we ask what should be done when really good people disagree. You have shown us so clearly what should and should not be done. When the fabric of our human relationships is being frayed, it is time to deepen our relationship with You. Draw each Senator into healing communion with You that will give physical strength and spiritual assurance of Your unqualified love for him or her. Then in the inner heart give Your peace and direction. Give each Senator the courage to speak truth as she or he hears it and knows it. When this trial is finished, may none feel the pangs of unspoken convictions.

Dear God, we also know there is something we dare not do when good people disagree. You do not condone the impugning of other people's characters because they hold different convictions. You do not want us to break our unity or the bond of sacred friendship. Bless these good Senators as they press forward together with love for You, America, and each other. In the unity of Your spirit and the bond of peace. *Amen*

February 10, 1999

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Holy God, who allows beginnings and brings an end, a time for healing, a time to mend, we ask You to pour out Your palpable, unifying power on this Senate. Today, may the Senators count on You more than they count votes. This is a time neither for gloating over victory nor for grimness over losing, but rather a period for grief over all that has brought us to this day. We are one Nation under You; we repent as a Nation; we turn from conditional ethics and seek to return to the absolutes of Your Commandments.

Thank You, Lord, for the clarion convictions expressed during this trial by so many Senators of both parties that morals do matter and character does count. May this shared, common commitment unite them as they lead this Nation. Now, as their chaplain, I hold them all before Your grace and mercy; as their friend, I intercede for their spiritual strength and courage. When the final votes are taken, hold them together in the oneness America so desperately needs them to exemplify. Help them to model rectitude and reconciliation. By Your power, the winner will be neither the Republicans nor the Democrats, but the American people. In Your holy Name. *Amen*

February 11, 1999

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Gracious God, whose love for this Nation has been displayed so magnificently through our history, we praise You that Your presence fills this historic Chamber and enters into the minds of the Senators gathered here together. Each of them is here by Your divine appointment. Together they claim Your promise, "Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you."—Psalm 50:15. We call on You on this day of trouble in America as this impeachment trial comes to a close. You have enabled an honest, open debate of the alternative solutions. Soon a vote will be taken. Also, You have established a spirit of unity in the midst of differences. Most important of all, we know that we can trust You with the results. You can use what is decided and continue to accomplish Your plans for America. We entrust to Your care the President and his family. Use whatever is decided today to enable a deeper experience of Your grace in his life and healing in his family. We commit this day to You and thank You for the hope that fills our hearts as we place our complete trust in You. You are our Lord and Savior. *Amen*

February 12, 1999

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Documents
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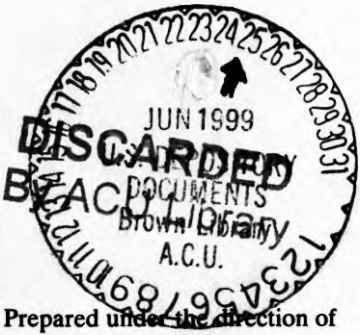

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Prepared under the direction of
Gary Sisco
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